



Testimony of Sharon Palmer, President

AFT Connecticut

**HB 6627 An Act Concerning A Tax Credit  
For Corporate Donations To Scholarship Funds**

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

March 28, 2011

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Sharon Palmer and I represent the 28,000 members of AFT Connecticut. On their behalf, I offer this testimony on HB 6627, An Act Concerning A Tax Credit For Corporate Donations To Scholarship Funds.

HB 6627 creates a private school voucher, disguises it as a scholarship, and gives corporations a tax credit for it. This is an inappropriate use of public monies. It diverts much needed funds from public school districts and does nothing to create jobs or get our economy back on sound footing.

In the midst of our state struggling to tackle a multi-billion dollar budget deficit, we keep hearing about the "shared sacrifice" we all must bear. Public employees are certainly being asked to step up and do their part to help balance the budget. Meanwhile, corporations, which are holding record profits while doing little to create jobs, continue to enjoy tax breaks and tax loopholes that we have yet to close. The State simply cannot afford to add yet another tax credit to the long list of tax breaks for corporations.

Everyone has a vested interest in supporting public education, including corporations. We applaud the meaningful work of the business community in support of public education and believe that is where appropriate work should be focused.

This bill does nothing to support public education. We urge the committee to reject this bill and focus its attention on directing money and resources to Connecticut's public schools.

Thank you.

AFT Connecticut  
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